

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 03285

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SP, NATO
SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO - VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF SPANISH
SOCIALIST DEFENSE EXPERTS MUGICA AND SOLANA

REF: MADRID 3148 (DTG 221831Z MAR 78)

1. IN WHAT MUST BE REGARDED OVERALL AS A VISIT VERY
USEFUL TO U.S. INTERESTS, THERE HAS INEVITABLY BEEN SOME
NEGATIVE FALL-OUT DERIVING FROM CERTAIN SOCIALIST
STATEMENTS, PRINCIPALLY BY SOLANA, TO THE SPANISH PRESS
WHICH HAVE SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY ASPECTS OF THE VISIT
SUPPORTIVE OF THE SOCIALISTS' POSITION OF OPPOSITION TO
SPANISH ENTRY INTO NATO (SEE REFTEL).

2. ONE OF THESE IS NOW CAUSING PARTICULAR DISCOMFORT TO
THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND IN OUR VIEW ALSO FOR
LARGER REASONS SHOULD BE LAID TO REST BEFORE IT GAINS
CURRENCY HERE. THIS IS SOLANA'S SUGGESTION, WHICH WE
UNDERSTAND HAS NOW ALSO BEEN ECHOED BY THE PARTY'S
SECRETARY GENERAL, FELIPE GONZALEZ, THAT MUGICA AND SOLANA
WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND IN WASHINGTON THAT THE NATO
ALLIES, THE U.S. INCLUDED, WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ISSUE AN
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INVITATION TO SPAIN TO JOIN THE ALLIANCE UNLESS A
SUBSTANTIAL PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN SPAIN COULD BE
FORESEEN VOTING IN FAVOR -- A POSITION WHICH SUGGESTS BY
IMPLICATION PROVIDING THE SOCIALISTS WITH AN EFFECTIVE
VETO.

3. THIS IS OF COURSE A FAR CRY FROM SAYING WHAT U.S.

OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SAYING CONSISTENTLY, THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WHILE SUPPORTING SPANISH ENTRY, HAS NO PRE-CONCEIVED TIMETABLE AND APPRECIATES FULLY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S PUBLICLY EXPRESSED INTENTION TO SEEK MORE THAN A NARROW MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT FOR SUCH AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

4. WE WILL SEEK TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THIS POINT BY TALKING TO SPANISH JOURNALISTS HERE, BUT RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT ALSO SEEK AN OPPORTUNITY TO RESTATE TO SPANISH JOURNALISTS IN THE U.S. BOTH THE U.S. POSITION AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THAT OF OUR ALLIES (PERHAPS BY REFERENCE TO REMARKS BY LUNS). STABLER

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